



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Public Instruction  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Enrollment in 4-year-old kindergarten shows steady growth over six years

*24 districts add 4K in 2006-07 school year*

MADISON—Enrollment in 4-year-old kindergarten in Wisconsin shows continued growth with 24,078 students enrolled in 4K programs in 257 school districts for the current academic year.

“School districts throughout the state have embraced 4K programming because they know it is right for their children, their families, and their communities,” said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster.

4K enrollment has grown by 66 percent in Wisconsin over the past six years. The nearly 15 percent jump this year is the largest year-to-year growth during that time frame. Twenty-four Wisconsin school districts added 4K this year, and half of those new districts are using community approaches to provide early childhood educational services.

Through community approaches, school districts provide 4K programs in partnership with local Head Start, preschool, and child care providers. The 4K programs may be held in school buildings, combine 4K and early childhood special education, place 4K teachers in child care or Head Start centers, or provide services through 4K contracts with child care or Head Start centers. This community-based, public/private collaboration serves children, their families, and the local economy. Community approaches also maximize resources, such as program space, licensed staff, and school library, health, and counseling services.

“School districts and Head Start and child care providers are working together to remove barriers so they can provide high-quality early education for their children,” Burmaster said. “These partnerships are tremendously important in expanding 4K and showing other communities how they can provide 4K for their children, too.”

### Growth in 4K — 2001-02 to 2006-07

School Year	Number of Districts	Number of Students
2001-02	166	14,483
2002-03	180	16,051
2003-04	189	16,957
2004-05	208	18,652
2005-06	234	20,959
2006-07	257	24,078

**Note:** The net increase of 4K districts from 2005-06 to 2006-07 is 23 due to the consolidation of the Trevor and Wilmot school districts.

(more)

Many states have developed early learning standards to guide curriculum development, which enhances the quality of early childhood programs. Wisconsin is among a handful of states that provides such guidance for all programs for children from birth to first grade, including children with disabilities. The *Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards* define standards in five areas: health and physical development, social and emotional development, language development and communication, early literacy, approaches to learning, and cognition and general knowledge. The departments of Public Instruction, Health and Family Services, and Workforce Development developed the *Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards* in 2003. The state superintendent's 2007-09 budget request seeks funds to strengthen the state's early learning standards.

Various research studies on well-designed early childhood programs show that quality early learning programs lay a foundation for future social, emotional, and cognitive development. Early childhood programs prepare youngsters to learn and to successfully transition into school by bridging the effects of poverty, allowing children from economically disadvantaged families to gain an equal footing with their peers.

"While quality early education is of benefit to all children, the biggest gains are for children from low-income families and those from homes where English is a second language," Burmaster noted. "However, preschool programming can reduce retentions and dropouts among middle-income children as well, demonstrating that 4K helps all children no matter their family income."

Reports show that young children attending quality early education programs do better in school, have fewer referrals for special education, and are more likely to graduate, reducing remediation and school costs. Research also shows that as adults, children involved in high-quality preschool programs are less likely to be involved in crime and are more likely to be employed taxpayers, which reduces the social costs of underemployment and correctional and social service programs.

"The benefits of 4K should be indisputable," Burmaster said. "Early learning experiences through quality 4K programs are among the best steps we can take in the formal education of our children. High-quality 4K programs raise achievement for all students and help us close the achievement gap, essentially halting the gap before it begins."

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**NOTES:** A list of school districts providing 4K follows this news release. The 24 districts marked with an asterisk (\*) implemented 4K in the 2006-07 school year. The net increase of 4K districts from 2005-06 to 2006-07 is 23 due to the consolidation of the Trevor and Wilmot school districts.

This news release is available electronically at < [http://www.dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2006\\_143.pdf](http://www.dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2006_143.pdf) >.

# Districts Offering 4-Year-Old Kindergarten

**2006-07 School Year**

## **A-B**

Abbotsford  
Adams-Friendship Area  
Albany  
Algoma  
Alma  
Alma Center  
Amery  
Arcadia  
Argyle  
Athens  
Auburndale  
Augusta  
Barneveld  
Barron Area  
Beaver Dam  
Beecher-Dunbar-Pembine  
Belmont Community  
Benton  
Birchwood  
Black Hawk  
Blair-Taylor  
Bloomer  
Bowler  
Boyceville Community  
\* Brodhead  
Bruce  
Butternut

## **C-E**

\* Cadott Community  
Cambria-Friesland  
Cashton  
Cassville  
Cedar Grove-Belgium Area  
Chetek  
Chilton  
\* Chippewa Falls Area  
Clayton  
Clear Lake  
Clinton Community  
Clintonville  
Cochrane-Fountain City  
Colby

Coleman  
Colfax  
Cornell  
Crandon  
Crivitz  
Cuba City  
Cudahy  
Cumberland  
Delavan-Darien  
Denmark  
DeSoto Area  
Dodgeland  
Dodgeville  
Drummond  
Durand  
Eau Claire Area  
Edgar  
\* Edgerton  
Elcho  
\* Eleva-Strum  
Elk Mound Area  
Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah  
\* Elmbrook  
Elmwood  
Erin

## **F-H**

Fall River  
Fennimore Community  
Flambeau  
Florence  
Fond du Lac  
Fontana J8  
Fox Point J2  
Frederic  
Freedom Area  
Geneva J4  
Gilman  
Gilmanton  
Glendale-River Hills  
Glenwood City  
Glidden  
Goodman-Armstrong  
Granton Area

Grantsburg  
Green Lake  
Greendale  
Greenfield  
Greenwood  
Hamilton  
Hartland-Lakeside  
Herman #22  
Highland  
Hilbert  
Hillsboro  
Hurley  
Hustisford

## **I-L**

Independence  
Iola-Scandinavia  
Iowa-Grant  
Juda  
Kaukauna Area  
Kenosha  
Kewaskum  
Kewaunee  
Kickapoo Area  
Kiel Area  
Kimberly Area  
Kohler  
Lac du Flambeau #1  
LaCrosse  
Ladysmith-Hawkins  
LaFarge  
Lake Geneva J1  
\* Lake Mills Area  
Lancaster Community  
Laona  
Lena  
Linn J4  
Linn J6  
Little Chute Area  
Loyal

## **M**

Manawa  
Manitowoc  
Maple Dale-Indian Hill

Marathon City  
Marinette  
Marion  
Marshall  
\* Marshfield  
Mauston  
Medford Area  
Mellen  
Menasha  
Mercer  
Merton Community  
Milwaukee  
Mineral Point  
Mishicot  
Mondovi  
Monona Grove  
Monroe  
Montello  
Monticello

## **N-P**

Necedah Area  
Neillsville  
Nekoosa  
Neosho J3  
New Auburn  
New Glarus  
New Holstein  
New Lisbon  
North Crawford  
North Fond du Lac  
North Lakeland  
Northern Ozaukee  
\* Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton  
Norway J7  
\* Oak Creek-Franklin  
Oconomowoc Area  
Oconto Falls  
\* Onalaska  
Osceola  
Oshkosh Area  
Osseo-Fairchild  
Owen-Withee

* Palmyra-Eagle Area	Richmond	South Milwaukee	Washburn
* Pardeeville Area	Rio Community	South Shore	Waterloo
Park Falls	* Ripon	Southern Door County	* Watertown
Pepin Area	River Ridge	Southwestern Wisconsin	Waukesha
Pittsville	Riverdale	Sparta Area	Waunakee Community
Platteville	Rosendale-Brandon	Spencer	Wausau
Plum City	Rosholt	Stanley-Boyd Area	Wausaukee
Plymouth	Royall	Stockbridge	Wautoma Area
Port Edwards	<b>S-T</b>	Stratford	Wauwatosa
Portage Community	Saint Francis	Sturgeon Bay	Wauzeka-Steuben
Potosi	Seneca	* Superior	West Allis
Prairie du Chien Area	Sevastopol	Thorp	* Westby Area
Prairie Farm	Sharon J11	Tigerton	* Westfield
* Prentice	Shawano-Gresham	* Tomahawk	Weston
Princeton	Sheboygan Area	Trevor-Wilmot	Weyauwega-Fremont
<b>R</b>	Shell Lake	Consolidated	Weyerhaeuser Area
Racine	Shiocton	Tri-County Area	Wheatland J1
Randolph	Shorewood	Turtle Lake	Whitefish Bay
Reedsville	Shullsburg	Two Rivers	Whitehall
Rhinelanders	Silver Lake J1	<b>U-W</b>	* Whitnall
Rib Lake	* Siren	Unity	Winter
Rice Lake Area	Slinger	Viroqua Area	Wisconsin Rapids
* Richfield	Solon Springs	Wabeno Area	Wonewoc-Union Center
* Richland	Somerset	Walworth J1	Woodruff J1

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